

Subject: Testimony Regarding Brookland Mano, Case Number 14-18A

Dear Zoning Commission,

My name is Allison Basile. I am a Ward 5 resident of 10 years and a co-business owner of Tightsift Laboring Cooperative.

I am writing to implore that the Zoning Commission put an end to Mid-City Financial's development plan at Brookland Manor, Case Number 14-18A. This plan would displace hundreds of low-income families at a time when DC is in an affordable housing crisis. That is completely unacceptable and not in the best interest of anyone but a wealthy developer.

One of the most important reasons I, as well as most people I know, live in DC is because of its diversity. The Office of Planning must begin to represent regular people, including the lower income residents at Brookland Manor, rather than being a rubber stamp for developers. According to DC's CFO, DC is more financially healthy than it has ever been.

These are my requests of the Zoning Commission:

- Zoning should not approve any plan that discriminates against families by eliminating large bedrooms.
- Zoning should not approve any plan that is facilitated by the forced displacement of residents through underhanded tactics such as a private armed police force.
- Zoning should not approve any plan that is facilitated by the forced displacement of residents through the erection of fences that restrict the freedom of movement of disabled persons, and that restrict the ability of residents to move freely around their own community.
- Zoning should not approve of a plan that proposes to eliminate affordable housing in the midst of an affordable housing crisis.
- Zoning should not approve of a plan that will result in the displacement of working class people of color in order to make way for luxury apartments while thousands sleep on the streets.
- We support Brookland Manor tenants in their reasonable and viable demand that the redevelopment preserve 535 units of affordable housing at the same bedroom sizes and current subsidy levels.
- We support the Brookland Manor tenants in their reasonable and viable demand that they not be displaced from the property during the process of redevelopment.
- We support the Brookland Manor tenants in their reasonable and viable demand that they gain access to employment opportunities through the rebuilding of their own community, which they have a fundamental right to be a part of.
- We implore the Zoning Commission to block this development from moving forward, until or unless Mid-City Financial immediately stops engaging in intimidation tactics to force tenants off the property.
- We implore the Zoning Commission to block this development from moving forward until or unless Mid-City Financial fundamentally changes their current plan to incorporate Brookland Manor tenant demands.
- In Zoning guidelines, it makes clear that any plan that is not considered a "community benefit" should not be approved. Any plan that does not cede to the reasonable and viable demands of Brookland Manor tenants cannot be considered a "community benefit" and should therefore not be approved.

Mid-City's plan must include robust affordable housing, including the retention of large bedrooms, so that no resident is displaced from their existing community.

Thank you for reading and considering my testimony.

Kind regards,

Allison Basile
 235 R St NE, Washington, DC 20002
 Tightsift Laboring Cooperative
 443-562-5856, basile.allison@gmail.com